

# city college news

## Technology in the City 2003 sets new high for attendance

This year's Technology in the City offered more displays, more competitions and lots of extra sights and sounds for the more than 350 students, parents, teachers and industry partners who came to visit the Casa Loma Campus for the day.

Visitors had a chance to tour the facilities, speak to students and industry experts, cheer on their favourite competitors, and get a sneak preview of the University of Toronto's 2003 model Formula SAE race car – a new joint project with George Brown's Mechanical Engineering Technology faculty (see story page 3). This year's event had an unprecedented seven high school competitions, with first place winners receiving a year's free tuition at George Brown.

First place winners were:

**Microelectronics (Micromania):**

Paul Cucureanu and Ray Cao,  
Earl Haig Secondary School

**IT:** Chris Auton, Kyle Gaylog and  
Ivan Svinoukhov, Lakeshore Collegiate

**Carpentry:** Steven McCartney,  
Earl Haig Secondary School

**Sheet Metal:** Shannon Johnston,  
Lakeshore Collegiate

**Architectural CAD:** Ashkan Beigi,  
Earl Haig Secondary School

**Mechanical Car:** Graham Mills and  
Sam Lackey, Lakeshore Collegiate

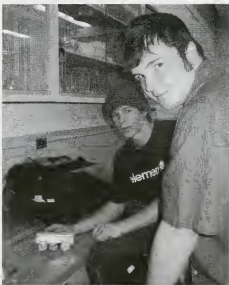
**Masonry:** Aleksandr O. Pogokelov,  
Lakeshore Collegiate

George Brown students also displayed their talents in the college level competitions. Winners of the Third Year Mechanical Engineering Projects Competition were:

**First:** Peter Janus, Jeremy Bluestein  
and Wessam Rizk for their Mechanical  
Bio-Brace

**Second:** Steven Chhoker, Hetal Patel  
and Walter Jakubasz for their EZ Lift  
Electric Jack

**Third:** Vinton Bowen, Gary Romelus,  
Deron Smith and Shawn Augustine for  
their Wheelchair and Bed Lift



Mechanical car competitors Steve Bilicki (left) and Mike Kaye of Lakeshore Collegiate Institute.



GBC Restoration student Jane Hu working on her display.

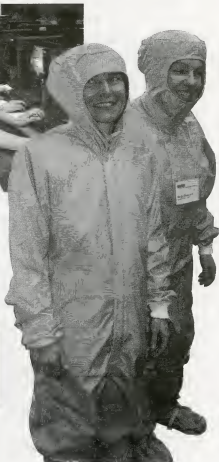


The IT competition was a popular choice for many high school teams.



GBC Foundation Chair Rod Macgillivray with Frank Sorochinsky.

Faculty of Technology Dean Joy McKinnon and  
George Brown College Foundation Director  
Margo Sheppard don their "bunny suits".



# Student Life Cycle project revitalizing student systems and services

*Child and Youth Worker professor and program co-ordinator Brenda Pipitone left her teaching post for two years to join the Student Life Cycle project along with Wayne Poirier, former executive director of the George Brown Student Association. The project involves a revitalization of student systems and services in the college to increase student satisfaction. City College News asked Pipitone to talk about her decision to join the project.*

I originally joined George Brown College as a faculty member in the Child and Youth Work Program and have been the program co-ordinator for the last five years. I have always loved working in the program. The staff really enjoys the students and everyone works together extremely well. It's always been an exciting and satisfying job to teach students here. There is so much to be proud of in this college. People here truly care about the students and the education they are delivering to them.

One of the things that got in the way of making it an ideal job for me were some of the ongoing systems problems that I encountered as a faculty

member. As the program co-ordinator I became more aware of some of these problems while helping students navigate the administrative systems.

There were many difficulties: students being overcharged, incorrect transcripts, timetable difficulties, graduating student names missing from graduation lists, incorrect information being sent to students or no information at all. Attempts to solve these problems were not only frustrating and time consuming, but also largely ineffective since they were clearly problems that could only be solved on a wider systems level.

As a program we felt unable to achieve what we really wanted to do. We could deliver an excellent experience for our students in the classroom, but couldn't deliver on the promise of a more complete positive college experience. We were aware that other program faculty had similar experiences with their students.

A few years ago when Frank Sorochinsky wrote his letter outlining the new vision for George Brown I got involved in the Change project on the bus tours and the implementation team. I enjoyed it. I was given a chance to meet some amazing people in the college community – people experiencing the same difficulties I was and interested in making GBC a wonderful place to learn. Just being part of what was happening was energizing.

Last June I joined the Student Life Cycle team.

Again I had a chance to work with an incredibly talented group of individuals to develop the design for revitalizing services for students.

I am now involved in the implementation phase of the Student Life Cycle project. I see working on this project as a gift. To be able to actually work on things that in the past have caused such difficulties and which will improve the experience of staff and students at GBC is a wonderful opportunity. The staff that we have worked with so far seem committed to the goals of this project, are excited about doing something monumental and are involved in changing things for the better. Things really can be different here and are already changing.

There are many examples of this that I see already. These are just a few examples of the changes that are underway:

- Information is easier to access thanks to work being done on Phase 4-web registration
- Applicants can view their admission status on the web and can determine if testing is required.
- Applicants will be able to see if they have been accepted.
- Applicants can book an assessment or placement test using a web-based booking which reminds students through messaging that they need to book for a placement test.
- Students can order their books online or make inquiries regarding student benefits.



Brenda Pipitone has said good bye to the classroom (at least temporarily) to solve problems and make life better for students as a leader of the college's Student Life Cycle project.

- Cooperation between the scheduling team and the divisions resulted in 95% of the course offerings being submitted for scheduling ensuring more accurate timetables earlier this year.
- In September, navigation of the building will be easier due to the work of Peter Lawrence and Ian Gregory from the Graphics division who are currently working on the signage project.

People are getting involved and embracing the change. Wayne and I are joining them in the quest for solving problems and making things work. It is our hope that you will join us and have real input for change.

SLC is about delivering on a total education. That's what brought me to George Brown in the first place – to give students a wonderful experience at the college. Students should come out of their years at George Brown saying, "That was the best time of my life"

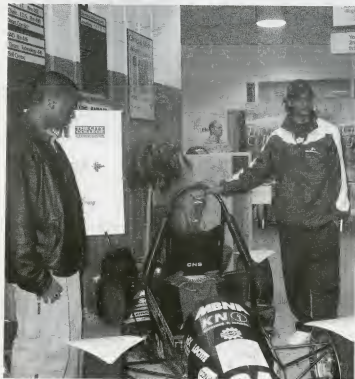
Brenda Pipitone can be reached at ext. 2614 and Wayne Poirier at ext. 2456 or by e-mail at sle@gbrown.on.ca.



## Registrar's Office celebrates milestone

Trish Sutherland (left) and Lily Wang of the Registrar's Office cut a cake to celebrate a milestone: on-time delivery of complete student timetables for the spring 2003 semester. Staff in the area were also anticipating a similar success for fall 2003 with issuing final timetables early enough in the summer to allow students to confidently sort out part-time job hours and childcare arrangements. Early and accurate timetabling is an important element in student satisfaction, says Brenda Pipitone of the Student Life Cycle project.

## George Brown and U of T Formula SAE race car project showcases partnership in education



The Formula SAE race car – a new partnership effort between George Brown College and University of Toronto Engineering students – was one of the highlights at Technology in the City 2003. Shown here are U of T Mechanical Engineering students Rohn Jackson (left) and Neil Persaud demonstrating the car's features to visitors at the show.

For the first time, engineering students on the University of Toronto's Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) Race Car team have partnered with George Brown's Mechanical Engineering Technology faculty and students to work on the development of its world-class competition race car.

The Formula SAE Car was

originally developed in 1997 by U of T engineering students, and has been competing in all the major Formula Student competitions around the world.

This year, the team turned to George Brown as a technical partner to assist in the fabrication of parts and provide technical consultation for its newest design. George Brown contributed the facilities,

tools and its considerable machining expertise from teachers and students.

Formula SAE Team Manager Vinh Pham says the partnership with George Brown delivered some key advantages the team has never had before. "We didn't have the extensive machining capabilities that George Brown has in terms of facilities and expertise. With George Brown as a technical partner, we were able to get the car out and build it earlier than usual for testing, which is extremely important. Less time building parts means more time to improve performance."

The 2003 Formula SAE race car will be appearing at the first official race of the season – the FSAE Competition at Pontiac Silverdome, Michigan – in May.

Steve Martin, Director, Faculty of Technology, Centre for Advanced Engineering Technologies says, "This partnership between U of T and George Brown is a wonderful example of how our new partnerships in education initiative is delivering real value to projects such as these. By leveraging the best of both worlds, I think we've hit on a winning formula."



## GBC Faculty of Technology appears in HGTV's *Just Ask Jon Eakes*

Home and Garden Television personality and home improvement specialist Jon Eakes visited George Brown Casa Loma campus on March 13 to film some takes for an upcoming episode of his show, *Just Ask Jon Eakes*. Eakes visited the Sheet Metal, Building Restoration and Electrical areas to pick up some technical pointers for his viewing audience. He is shown in the photo (right) with Sheet Metal Apprenticeship Coordinator Chris Vickers, who was interviewed for the show.

Tom Stephenson, Manager, Faculty of Technology, says Eakes' visits have been wonderful publicity for the college. "It's more targeted, and the episodes are repeated many times at different time slots during the year. In fact, we had a student email us recently to apply for the program who saw an episode that was taped last year."

For information on the show and programming schedules, visit <http://www.joneakes.com/>.

## SuperBuild update



The finishing touches are being made at the St. James Campus SuperBuild site. Current activities include finishings, commissioning and final fixes. Furniture delivery and installation will be completed at the end of March. The building now has its own address of 290 Adelaide St. East.

The steel structure and concrete floor slabs are now being completed at the Casa Loma

Campus project at 146 Kendal Avenue. Building envelope installation, including glass curtain walls and roof, have commenced. Interior partitions and ceiling installation will begin in April. Scheduled completion date is end of July, with furniture delivery and installation slated for early August.

Both projects are on schedule and on budget.

# upcoming events

## **The Annual Interenor (for Deaf-Blind Persons) Program Open House**

April 2 (11:00 am to 2:00 pm)

St. James Campus, 200 King St. E., Gymnasium, 6th Floor  
Call B.J. Landry at 416-415-5000 ext. 2357

## **Free Career Planning Workshop**

April 7, May 12, June 9 (6:30 to 9:30 pm)

St. James Campus, 200 King St. E., Room 461D  
Call 416-415-2000 ext. 3444 and press 1 to register.

## **METALmorphosis Jewellery Grad Show**

April 11 to May 6

Bounty Canadian Contemporary Craft Shop at Harbourfront,  
235 Queens Quay West  
Call Paul McClure at 416-415-5000 ext. 3638 or call 416-973-4993

## **George Brown Dance Spring Graduation Showcase**

April 12, 8:00 pm

Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge Street  
Tickets are \$15 for students and seniors and \$25 for general admission  
Call Ticketmaster at 416-872-1111  
For information call Christine Heath at 416-415-5000 ext. 2196

## **Design Exchange Exhibition**

April 14 to 18

200 Bay Street, Main Floor  
Call Alice Lee at 416-415-5000 ext. 2103

## **Theatre School Productions**

April 15 to 26

Spring Repertory Season: *Lady Windemere's Fan* and *The Visit*  
George Brown Theatre, 530 King Street East  
Tickets are \$15 for general admission and pay-what-you-can for Saturday matinees.  
Call 416-415-5000 ext. 2167

## **Hospitality & Tourism Discovery Days**

April 16, May 14 (2:00 to 4:00 pm)

Take a complete tour of the facilities, see demonstrations  
by chefs/instructors, etc.  
Call Heather Comrie at 416-415-5000 ext. 2239

## **Applied Degree Information Session**

April 16, May 13, June 11 (6:30 to 8:30 pm)

St. James Campus, 200 King St. E.

## **Director's Design Competition Exhibition**

April 21 to May 2

Realtime, 55 Mills Street (Distillery District)

## **George Brown Annual Fashion Show**

April 24 (7:30 pm)

Montecassino Place, 3710 Chesswood Drive, Downsview  
Call Rosa Fracassa at 416-415-5000 ext. 2997

## **Lindt Sponsored Student Competition**

April 25 (8:00 am to 12 noon)

Hospitality Building, 300 Adelaide St. E.  
Call Lis Henriques at 416-415-5000 ext. 2228

## **Free True Colors® Workshop**

May 5 and 26, June 16 (6:30 to 9:30 pm)

St. James Campus, 200 King St. E., Room 461D  
Call 416-415-2000 ext. 3444 and press 3 to register.

## **Ballet Jorgen Dance Festival**

May 22 and 23 (8:00 pm)

Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles Street  
(across from the Museum subway station)  
Call Christine Heath at 416-415-5000 ext. 2196

# Faculty get 214 new computers

In late March technicians were working at the St. James and Casa Loma campuses to install 214 new PC systems for faculty members. This installation is part of an initiative to allow faculty better access to computer resources and become more involved in online teaching. John Price, Operations Manager Information Systems (shown in photo) reports that the Client Services Team is now in the process of completing the software work to ensure that everything is up and running on the new systems by the second week of April.



# Mental Health symposium findings now available online

In February, Access Professor Shane Connors chaired the College and Institutes Symposium on Students with Mental Health Disabilities held in Victoria, BC. The three-day conference brought together students, staff, administrators and association members to discuss the issue of accommodating students with mental health disabilities and its economic and social impact. People can view the published conference, follow current developments and engage in online dialogues by registering on the Web at [www.accc.ca/networking](http://www.accc.ca/networking). Connors reports that within a year the ACCC (Association of Canadian Community Colleges) will also be using the knowledge gained to produce a best practices manual for use by the college system.

# Giller Award-winning author visits GBC

On March 25, Giller Award-winning author Austin Clarke visited George Brown to speak to members of the college's Seniors' Association, as part of the "Immigrants, Exiles and Refugees" course taught by Pat Hanson. Mr. Clarke discussed his experiences as an immigrant to Canada and his books. Clarke was born in Barbados and came to Canada in the 1950s. A respected author, journalist and broadcaster, Clarke has published five short story collections and nine novels. His recent novel, *The Polished Hoe*, which is set in the West Indies in 1952, was awarded the 2002 Giller Prize.



# city college news

is a publication of the Marketing and Communications Department,  
George Brown College at 200 King St. East, Room 542E, Toronto, ON M5T 2T9  
Story ideas?  
Contact Rosalie Starkey at 416-415-5000 ext. 4842 or [rstarkey@gbrownc.on.ca](mailto:rstarkey@gbrownc.on.ca)  
Editor: Joyce Lamb Writer: Denise Deveau  
Contents copyright George Brown College, 2003.